

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions. Please amend the claims as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1-21. *(Canceled)*

22. *(Currently Amended)* A ~~The tool holder of claim 38, for holding elongated knitting tools, the knitting tools being for use in a knitting machine, the tool holder comprising:~~

~~a transport rail extending longitudinally, the transport rail including a back portion;~~

~~a plurality of first clamping legs extending at an angle from longitudinally extending edges of the back portion and being adapted to hold the knitting tools; and~~

~~a plurality of slots disposed along each of the clamping legs, the slots being adapted to transversely receive the knitting tools and being further adapted to retain the knitting tools by frictional engagement,~~

wherein the slots are spaced relative to one another so as to define a pitch adapted to match a predetermined pitch defined by a plurality of needle channels in the ~~a~~ knitting machine.

23. *(Canceled)*

24. *(Currently Amended)* The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the first clamping legs are disposed parallel to and spaced apart from one another.
25. *(Currently Amended)* The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the first clamping legs are resilient.
26. *(Currently Amended)* The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein at least one of the first clamping legs has a portion that diverges away from the other first clamping leg.
27. *(Previously Presented)* The tool holder of claim 26, wherein the diverging portion of the at least one first clamping leg defines an obtuse angle with the other first clamping leg.
28. *(Previously Presented)* The tool holder of claim 26, wherein the plurality of slots are entirely disposed on in the diverging portion.
29. *(Currently Amended)* The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the transport rail is one piece.
30. *(Currently Amended)* The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the transport rail is plastic.

31. (*Previously Presented*) The tool holder of claim 30, wherein the plastic transport rail has a uniform wall thickness.

32. (*Currently Amended*) The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the transport rail is flexible.

33. (*Currently Amended*) The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ further comprising a 38, wherein the closure part is adapted to fit over the transport rail.

34. (*Currently Amended*) The tool holder of claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the plurality of slots on one of the plurality of clamping legs have lengths that differ from the lengths of the plurality of slots on the other clamping leg.

35. (*Currently Amended*) A shipping unit having a tool holder according to claim ~~22~~ 38, wherein the knitting tools are inserted into the plurality of slots.

36. (*Previously Presented*) The shipping unit of claim 35, further comprising a casing.

37. (*Canceled*)

38. (*Previously Presented*) The tool holder of claim 37A tool holder for holding elongated knitting tools, comprising:

a transport rail extending longitudinally, the transport rail including

a back portion;

a plurality of first clamping legs extending at an angle from

longitudinally extending edges of the back portion and being adapted to hold together at least

two parts of each of the knitting tools; and

a plurality of slots disposed along each of the clamping legs, the slots

being adapted to transversely receive the knitting tools and being further adapted to retain the

knitting tools by frictional engagement; and

a closure part having a plurality of second clamping legs adapted to

abut the first clamping legs of the transport rail, wherein the first clamping legs of the

transport rail include first end portions having an outer spacing from one another, and the

second clamping legs of the closure part include second end portions having an inner spacing

from one another, the inner spacing of the second clamping legs of the closure part being less

than the outer spacing of the first clamping legs of the transport rail.